

Title: DISK DRIVE WITH EJECTING FUNCTION

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Cross Reference to Related Applications

[0001] This application claims priority of Taiwan Patent Application Serial No. 091218502 filed on November 18, 2002.

Field of Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a disk ejection apparatus of a disk drive.

Background of the Invention

[0003] A disk drive is indispensable among computer peripherals nowadays. Conventionally, the disk is held by a tray inside the disk drive to perform data reading and writing operations. To take out or replace the disk, users can eject the tray by pressing the button on the panel.

[0004] Normally, the ejection of the tray could be controlled through the button on the panel. However, when a system breakdown or a power failure occurs, users will need to eject the tray manually. Therefore, a reliable method for manual ejection is necessary for a disk drive.

Summary of the Invention

[0005] The main aspect of the present invention provides a disk ejection apparatus of a disk drive.

[0006] The present invention provides a disk drive with ejecting function. The disk drive has a housing in which a tray is selectively received. The tray includes a track that has a first end and a second end. A cam rack is slidably disposed on a chassis, and the chassis is placed inside the housing. Disposed on the cam rack, a first shaft engages with the track. A second shaft is also disposed on the cam rack. A curved bar, slidably disposed on the chassis, touches against the second shaft. When actuated in a direction parallel to the moving direction of the tray, the curved bar drives the second shaft in order to make the cam rack move in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the tray. Then the first shaft moves from the first end of the track to the second end, and the tray is ejected from the housing accordingly.

[0007] In the above-mentioned embodiment, a block with an angled surface can replace the curved bar. The block is movably disposed on the chassis, and the angled surface of the block touches against the second shaft. An angle less than 90 degrees is formed between the angled surface and the moving direction of the tray. When actuated in a direction parallel to the moving direction of the tray, the block drives the second bar in order to make the cam rack move in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the tray. Then the first shaft moves from the first end of the track to the second end, and the tray is ejected from the housing accordingly.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0008] Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a chassis disposed inside a disk drive according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0009] Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of a disk ejection apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0010] Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of a cam rack according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] Fig. 4 is a back-side view of a tray of the present invention;

[0012] Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram of a chassis disposed inside a disk drive according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0013] Fig. 6 is a schematic diagram of a disk ejection apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Detailed Description

[0014] The present invention provides a disk ejection apparatus of a disk drive. When a system breakdown or a power failure occurs, the tray could be manually ejected.

[0015] Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a chassis 10 disposed inside a disk drive according to an embodiment of the present invention. The chassis 10 is disposed inside the housing of the disk drive while a cam rack 20 is slidably disposed on the chassis 10. Besides, a first shaft 202 is disposed on the cam rack 20. Also, a curved bar 30 is slidably disposed on the chassis 10, and a base 302 restricts the movement of the curved bar 30.

[0016] Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating the relative positions of the curved bar 30 and the cam rack 20. A second shaft 204 is disposed on the cam rack 20 and touches against the curved bar 30. When actuated, the curved bar 30 drives the second shaft 204 and then makes the cam rack 20 move accordingly. Fig. 3 shows another embodiment of the second shaft 204. The second shaft 204 has a cuboid 206 thereon. When actuated, the curved bar 30 drives the cuboid 206 and makes both the second shaft 204 and the cam rack 20 move accordingly.

[0017] Fig. 4 is a backside view of a tray 40 of the present invention. Disposed on the backside of the tray 40, the track 402 has a first end 404 and a second end 406. When the

tray 40 is received in the disk drive, the track 402 engages with the first shaft 202 of Fig. 1. Furthermore, when the tray 40 is located inside the disk drive, the cam rack 20 is at the position as shown in Fig. 1. Meanwhile, the first shaft 202 engages with the track 402 at the first end 404. When the button on the panel is pressed, the first shaft 202 moves from the first end 404 to the second end 406, and thus the tray 40 is ejected from the disk drive. The above-mentioned method of ejecting through pressing the button is well known to those skilled in the art so that further details are not discussed hereinafter.

[0018] Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, the following are the steps of the manual disk ejection. First, the curved bar 30 is actuated in a direction parallel to the moving direction of the tray 40, that is, the direction of arrow A. The curved bar 30 could be actuated by a push of a stick. Secondly, the curved bar 30 drives the second shaft 204, causing the cam rack 20 move in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the tray 40, said that is, the direction of arrow B. Thereafter, the first shaft 202, which engages with the track 402, is driven by the movement of the cam rack 20 and moves in the direction of arrow B. At last, when the first shaft 202 moves from the first end 404 to the second end 406, the tray 40 is ejected from the disk drive accordingly.

[0019] Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram of a chassis 10 disposed inside a disk drive according to another embodiment of the present invention. The chassis 10 of Fig. 5 resembles the chassis 10 of Fig. 1 while a block 50 of Fig. 5 replaces the curved bar 30 of Fig. 1. Disposed on the chassis 10, the block 50 has an angled surface 502 touching against the second shaft 204, as shown in Fig. 6. The block 50 includes the angled surface 502 to push against the second shaft 204 as shown in Fig. 6.

[0020] Referring to Fig. 4, Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, the following are the steps of the manual disk ejection. First, the block 50 is actuated in a direction parallel to the moving direction of the tray 40, that is, the direction of arrow A. Secondly, the block 50 drives the second

shaft 204, causing the cam rack 20 move in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the tray 40, said that is, the direction of arrow B. Thereafter, the first shaft 202, which engages with the track 402, is driven by the movement of the cam rack 20 and moves in the direction of arrow B. Lastly, when the first shaft 202 moves from the first end 404 to the second end 406, the tray 40 is ejected from the disk drive accordingly.

[0021] While this invention has been described with reference to the illustrative embodiments, these descriptions should not be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the illustrative embodiment, as well as other embodiments of the invention, will be apparent upon reference to these descriptions. It is therefore contemplated that the appended claims will cover any such modifications or embodiments as falling within the true scope of the invention and its legal equivalents.